

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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SUBJECT: ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MAPUTO

1. THE ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MAPUTO, THE ONLY ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL EXISTING IN THECITY, BEGAN THE FIRST TERM OF SCHOOL YEAR ON FEB 16. CHILDREN WILL ATTEND SCHOOL FOR THREE TERMS, WITH THE YEAR ENDING OCT 31. THERE ARE 112 PUPILS IN NURSERY SCHOOL THROUGH THE SEVENTH GRADE. THE MAJORITY OF YOUNGSTERS ARE IN THE LOWER GRADES. IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO COMBINE GRADES FOUR AND FIVE AND GRADES SIX AND SEVEN BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS. A TOTAL OF EIGHT TEACHERS ARE ON THE STAFF, THREE OF WHOM ARE TBACHER QUALIFIED. THE REMAINDER ARE OF VARYING BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCE, ALL WITH THE COMMON DESIRE TO ASSIST THE SCHOOL IN EDUCATING STUDENTS. TWENTY-TWO NATIONALITIES ARE REPRESENTED IN THE STUDENT BODY, LED BY THE PORTUGUESE, 33 PERCENT, FOL-LOWED BY THE TANZANIANS. THERE ARE THREE AMERICAN STUDENTS ATTENDING THE SCHOOL. TUITION COSTS HAVE REMAINED THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. SUBJECTS TAUGHT ARE: MATH, SCIENCE, HISTORY, ENGLISH, PORTUGUESE, GEOGRAPHY, WRITING, MUSIC, ART,OTXSICAL EDUCATION AND GARDENING.

2. THE SEVEN-MAN BOARD OF EDUCATION, REDUCED IN NUMBER TO THREE ACTIVE MEMBERS BECAUSE OF RESIGNATIONS AND DEPARTURES FROM THE COUNTRY, AGREED ON FEB 23 TO DISBAND. THE DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE IT NO LONGER REPRESENTS THE PARENTS AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN NATIONALIZED

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AND ALL DECISION ARE MADE BY THE GPRM. A REPRESENTATIVE OF

THE MIN OF EDUCATION, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING, WAS ASSURED BY THE REMAINING MEMBERS (THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, THE COUNSELOR OF THE TANZANIAN EMBASSY AND A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN) THAT THEY WOULD RENDER ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO THE SCHOOL IF ASKED TO DO SO. SINCE THE NATIONALIZATION OF ALL SCHOOLS IN MOZAMBIQUE, WHICH INCLUDED THE ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOL, THE BOARD HAS CEASED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE FORCE IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL.

3. THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WAS SHOWN A PAGE OF THE NEW SYLLABUS DEALING WITH HISTORY. IT WAS VERY STRONG ON THE FIGHT FOR MOZAMBIKAN INDEPENDENCE AND THE REVOLUTION, AND REPLACED WITH TOPICS ON THE COLONIZERS OF AFRICA WITH EMPHASIS ON THE PORTUGUESE. ALTHOUGH THE SCHOOL IS NOW INTERNATIONAL IN NATURE, WITH MANY FOREIGN STUDENTS, IT IS APPARENT THAT THERE WILL NOT BE AN ENTIRE ESCAPE FROM THE INDOCTRINATION SIMILAR TO THAT BEING TAUGHT IN OTHER MOZAMBIKAN SCHOOLS. RECOMMENDATION: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT AMBASSADOR DE PREE OREKFHUSRT HOME STUDY PROGRAM TO POST FOR HIS CHILDREN. IT APPEARS THAT SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATIONAL AID OR SUBSTANCE WILL BE NECESSARY TO KEEP CHILDREN UP TO THEIR EXPECTED STANDARDS, PRIVATE TUTORING IS PROHIBITED BY LAW, AND MOTHERS WILL HAVE TO CARRY PART OF EDUCATIONAL BURDEN. CARSPN

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